rightsizing of manpower. As a part of restrueturing, 80 additional posts of Chief Commissioners of Income Tax and 296 that of Commissioners of Income Tax have been created. There has also been reduction of 2716 posts.

MODVAT to DTA manufacturers in NE States

3701. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allowed MODVAT facilities to DTA manufacturers on goods produced in the North East which arc having excise concessions;

(b) whether it is a fact that goods manufactured in the North East are eligible for exports and consequently for getting export benefits including excise duty refund and duty drawback at par with other States;

(c) if not, what arc the reasons for discrimination against the North East; and

(d) whether Government would take corrective steps to make them at par with industries of other States to save the industries of North East from complete disaster?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Docs not apply in view of reply to parts (a) and (b) above.

VRS in Andhra Bank

3702. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees in each cadre in Andhra Bank and State Bank of Hyderabad who opted for Voluntary Retirement Scheme (VRS) and number of employees relieved in each Bank under the Scheme;

(b) whether VRS has increased the workload of remaining employees of these Banks manifold leading to their exploitation; and

(c) if so, the remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Requisite information is as follows:

Andhra Bank :

	Officers	Clerks	Sub-Staff	Total
Application received under VRS	1180	429	188	1797
Applications accepted and Staff relieved under VRS	1052	402	148	1602

State Bank of Hyderabad:

	Officers	Clerks	Sub-Staff	Total
Application received under VRS	1274	1008	289	2571
Applications accepted and Staff relieved under VRS	652	685	208	1545

(b) and (c).The Voluntary Retirement Scheme was designed with the objective of right sizing the manpower without affecting the functioning of banks adversely. Banks have informed that generally there has been no deterioration in the quality of customer service. However, in the post-VRS scenario certain imbalances/Mis-matches have occurred between officers and award staff employees as well as within officers' cadre. To manage these imbalanccs^nis-matchcs, banks have taken various steps to rationalise their staff by way of reassessment of their cadre-wise staff requirement at different centers in order to provide the requisite staff by relocation from surplus to deficit pockets and by need-based promotions of competent and qualified officers.